

CLAIMS

1. A method for modulating immuno-activity of an antigen presenting cell (APC) said method comprising contacting said cell with an effective amount of an agent which couples, binds or otherwise associates with a cell-surface activation molecule and in turn prevents, inhibits or otherwise down-regulates one or more functional activities of said cell.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the APC is selected from a dendritic cell (DC), follicular DC, macrophage and B cell.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the APC is a DC.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the DC is a myeloid DC.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the DC is a CD11c⁺ DC.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the agent is an immunointeractive molecule.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the immunointeractive molecule is an antibody or a functional equivalent thereof.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a functional equivalent thereof.
9. The method of claim 7 or 8 wherein the antibody or functional equivalent is specific for CMRF-44.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the CMRF-44 antibody or its functional equivalent is capable of inducing lysis of the APC.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the cell is mammalian derived.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein the mammalian cell is a human cell.
13. The method of claim 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 wherein the functional equivalent is a derivative, fragment, homolog, analog or chemical equivalent or mimetic of the antibody.
14. The method of claim 10 wherein lysis is caused by antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity.
15. The method of claim 7 or 8 or 9 and 10 wherein the antibody is conjugated with a toxic component which kills or otherwise facilitates lysis of the APC.
16. A method for modulating the immuno-activity of an APC and/or lymphocyte, said method comprising contacting said APC with an effective amount of a monoclonal antibody to a cell surface antigen for a time and under conditions sufficient to induce lysis or cell death of said cell.
17. The method of claim 16 wherein the monoclonal antibody is specific for CMRF44 or its functional equivalent.
18. The method of claim 16 or 17 wherein the APC is DC.
19. The method of claim 18 wherein the DC is a CD11⁺ DC.
20. A method for modulating an immune response in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of an agent, which agent couples, binds or otherwise associates with an APC surface activation molecule for a time and under conditions sufficient to prevent, inhibit or otherwise down-regulate one or more functional activities of said APC.

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21. The method of claim 20 wherein the APC is DC.
22. The method of claim 21 wherein the DC is a CD11c⁺ DC.
23. The method of claim 20 wherein the agent is an antibody.
24. The method of claim 27 wherein the antibody is specific for CMRF44 or its functional equivalent.
25. A method for down-regulating the immuno-activity of an immuno-competent graft, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of an antibody specific for CMRF-44 or its functional equivalent on an APC, for a time and under conditions sufficient to induce lysis or death of said APC.
26. A method for down-regulating the immuno-activity of a bone marrow graft in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of an antibody specific for CMRF-44 or its functional equivalent on an APC for a time and under conditions sufficient to induce lysis or death of said APC.
27. A method for the prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment of a condition characterized by the aberrant, unwanted or otherwise inappropriate immuno-activity of an immuno-competent graft, said method comprising contacting said graft with an effective amount of an antibody specific for CMRF-44 or its functional equivalent on an APC, for a time and under conditions sufficient to induce lysis or death of said APC.
28. The method of claim 25 or 26 or 27 wherein the APC is DC.
29. The method of claim 28 wherein the DC is a CD11c⁺ DC.

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30. The method of claim 25 or 26 or 27 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
31. Use of an antibody to CMRF-44 on an APC in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an aberrant unwanted or otherwise inappropriate immuno-activity of an immune system.
32. Use of claim 31 wherein the APC is a DC.